

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a support wherein at least one area on said first surface comprises surface structures that form evanescent-fields on the first surface of the support for the detection of optically- active substances within the evanescent-fields formed on the first surface the support, wherein the surface structures on said surface comprise inclined surfaces, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.
2. As to claim 12, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a detector comprising a support having opposing first and second surfaces, wherein the first surface comprises inclined surface structures that form evanescent-fields on the first surface of the support by TIR (total internal reflection) of light and at least one detector configured to detect an optically-active substance within an evanescent-field formed by the inclined surface structures on the first surface of the support, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.
3. As to claim 22, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method comprising providing a support wherein at least one area on the first surface comprises surface structures that form evanescent fields on the first surface of the support, wherein the surface structures comprise inclined surfaces and detecting an optically-active substance within a medium disposed adjacent the first surface of the support using evanescent-fields generated by the surface

structures on the first surface of the support, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JARREAS C. UNDERWOOD whose telephone number is (571) 272-1536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 0530-1400.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley can be reached on (571) 272-2059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. C. U./
Examiner, Art Unit 2877

Jarreas Underwood
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
2/6/2009

/L. G. Lauchman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2877

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